IN THE CLAIMS

Page 27, after "Claims" delete "(for U.S.)"

Page 27, before claim 1, insert - - What is claimed is - - .

What is claimed is:

1.   An image correction processing method for correcting a pixel value of each pixel constituting image data obtained from an original image affected by the peripheral light-off, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

        (1) converting a distance between each pixel of a group of pixels which have an equal amount of peripheral light amount reduction and which are located on a common contour line of an oval about a predetermined reference pixel located at the center thereof and said predetermined reference pixel into a radius of a true circle having a diameter corresponding to the major axis of said oval;

        (2) for each pixel, obtaining an angle value thereof in proportion to said radius obtained at said converting step and then obtaining a $\cos^4$ value of said angle value; and

        (3) multiplying an inverse of said $\cos^4$ value obtained for each pixel by a pixel value of this pixel, thereby to obtain a corrected pixel value for said pixel.

2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein said oval has a predetermined inclination relative to the original image.

3.   The method according to claim 1, wherein a proportional coefficient used in the calculation of the angle value in proportion to the radius is determined according to each particular condition of the peripheral light amount reduction present in the original image.

4.   The method according to claim 1, wherein a proportional coefficient used in the calculation of the angle value in proportion to the radius is determined according to each type of the camera used for obtaining the

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